

SENIOR CITIZENS COMMISSION

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March 13, 2008

Mayor Chuck Reed
Members of the San José City Council
San José City Hall
200 East Santa Clara Street
San José, CA 95113

Dear Mayor Reed and Members of the City Council,

I am writing on behalf of the San José Senior Citizens Commission, regarding the Healthy Neighborhoods Venture Funding (HNVF) as it pertains to senior programs and services.

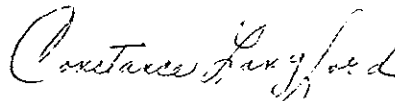
First, the Senior Commission is concerned that there is discussion about shifting funding away from the frail elderly and toward the younger and more active senior. We feel "baby boomers", younger and more active seniors have a wide variety of resources at their disposal. They do not have the same level of need that the frail elderly do. We are very concerned that the frail elderly will be lost. The frail elderly are the ones that truly need the resources that the HNVF program could supply.

Finally, we are also concerned that there is discussion about shifting all HNVF funding into the General Fund. In other words, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) would no longer have the option of applying for HNVF grants for senior and youth programs. We are concerned that this will have a huge negative impact on these CBOs. Funding for these organizations is drying up everywhere. We hope that HNVF funding will remain as a grant opportunity for these CBO's and for the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Office on Aging.

This recommendation was made by the Senior Citizens Commission at its February 14th meeting and was unanimously approved.

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely,



Constance Langford, Chair
San José Senior Citizens Commission

cc: Mayor Chuck Reed
Councilmember Pete Constant
Debra Figone, City Manager
Albert Balagso, PRNS Director